

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 23, 2004. Claims 1 and 5-8 are pending in this application. Claims 2-4 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claim 1, which is in independent form, has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to change their dependency to Claim 1, and to make other changes relating to matters of form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

First, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that Claim 4 includes allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. Claim 4 has been canceled, and its allowable subject matter has been incorporated into independent Claim 1; this action is taken without prejudice or disclosure of subject matter. Consequently, Claims 1, and dependent Claims 5-8, are now allowable.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,871,657 (Nelson); and rejected Claims 1-3, and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0006581 A1 (Motoi et al.). These rejections are moot in light of the adding of allowable subject matter from Claim 4 into Claim 1.

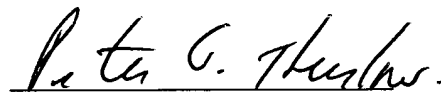
This Amendment After Final Action is believed to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the

Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peter G. Thurlow".

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